

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Page 1, after the title insert the following:**

This application is the US national phase of international application **PCT/FI2003/000748** filed **9 October 2003** which designated the U.S. and claims benefit of **FR 02/12605**, dated **10 October 2002**, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 1, as follows:**

In other words, ~~[[a]]~~ the first problem ~~which the invention proposes~~ the applicant had to solve ~~[[is]]~~ was to develop a support based on natural and/or cellulose fibres which are capable of floating for long at the surface of a liquid, in particular of water.

**Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 5.**

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 10, as follows:**

~~A third~~ Another problem which the invention proposes to solve and which relates more particularly to the treatment of aerobic lagoons is to develop a medium which prevents the proliferation of algae.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 21, as follows:**

In other words, ~~the invention first of all relates to the~~ applicant's invention is to use, as floating support~~[[, of]]~~ a support based on cellulose and/or natural fibres, of which all or some of the OH functional groups have reacted with a grafting reagent RX, where R is a suitable hydrophobic group in order to be able to be in the liquid state at a temperature of at least 200°C at atmospheric pressure and in order to be able to react on the OH functional groups at least under certain reaction conditions, while producing covalent grafting of hydrophobic groups R onto the OH functional groups with formation of a volatile compound HX under the reaction conditions.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 7, as follows:**

~~In an advantageous embodiment~~ Advantageously, the fatty acid halide is a saturated or unsaturated aliphatic acid halide comprising at least 16 carbon atoms, advantageously behenic acid.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 18, as follows:**

Thus, ~~the subject of the invention is also a medium~~ is discussed, in particular for the treatment of aerobic lagoons, provided in the form of a support based on cellulosic and/or natural fibres, of which all or some of the OH functional groups have reacted with a grafting reagent RX mentioned above, the medium ~~being characterized in that it additionally contains~~ containing carbon black.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 24, as follows:**

~~In a preferred embodiment,~~ Advantageously the support additionally contains epichlorohydrin resin.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 1, as follows:**

The problem of floatability having been resolved, the applicant then sought to solve ~~the second problem mentioned above, namely, in the context of the removal of pollution from anaerobic lagoons, the development of a medium based on activated carbon fibres, endowed with increased mechanical resistance~~ two further problems. A problem which the present invention proposes to solve is to develop a filtering medium particularly suitable for the treatment of anaerobic lagoons which contains a high content of activated carbon fibres or powder while being endowed with increased mechanical resistance.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 22, as follows:**

~~As already~~ The filtering medium is advantageously used as a floating support,  
and as already mentioned, the supports as described may be advantageously used for  
removal of pollution from anaerobic or aerobic lagoons.

**Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 25.**